Panchayati Raj

NOVEMBER 1963

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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RURAL EXTENSION ...
28 NOV 1963

SHRIMATI SHYAMRAJI DEVI— *the seventyfive year old Pradhan of Palia Tekdhar, a small village in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh, under whose inspiring guidance the village has taken to wheat cultivation and set up a record in its production in the whole district.*

Toddlers in Thirumalanaikanpalayam Balwadi in Andhra Pradesh.

THROUGH CHILDREN OF TO-DAY WE BUILD INDIA OF TO-MORROW

—JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

Children playing in a Children's Park in one of the villages of Mysore State.

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EDITOR : VISHNU DUTT
(*Asstt. Editor, Publications Division*)

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TWO LETTERS

Sir,

I FULLY agree with the views expressed by the Social Education Organiser, Indi, Dt. Bijapur, published in the September issue of "Panchayati Raj". Besides, I would like to impress upon the Mysore State Legislators the following further points for their careful consideration before implementing the Hon'ble Basappa Committee's recommendations.

(i) Mostly disputes arise, civil or criminal, on account of either a distorted interpretation of laws or its wilful disobedience. In either of these circumstances it requires intelligent heads to decide between right and wrong. As the villages stand now there are scarcely sufficient number of residents who are well-read and well-informed of legal enactments which are being frequently amended by the authorities. It is undoubtedly, therefore, unsafe to leave justice in the hands of such ill-informed villagers.

(ii) Within a village, most of the people are either related to one another or they are friends or otherwise under some obligation to each other. It will, therefore, be naturally difficult even for the Panch Benchers to declare an impartial verdict in a dispute placed before them by or against one of their own fold.

(iii) "Familiarity breeds contempt", so runs the proverb. It is very likely that the village folk will gradually lose their reverence for law due to its being pronounced by their dear and near ones.

(iv) If settlement of disputes is brought within easy reach of the people, that is, within the same village, their occurrence will tend to increase and also give rise to nourishment of hatred against the members of the Nyaya Panchayat by the aggrieved parties.

These are my views gained out of experience as one connected with a village Panchayat for the past few years.

Kudupu Panchayat,
MANGALORE
30-9-1963

Yours etc.,
P. Anantha Bhat,
Chairman

Sir,

I WENT through the letter "Nyaya Panchayats" by Shri C. M. Mottuswamy published in the September issue of "Panchayati Raj". Nobody can deny that the Panchayats are afflicted with group politics and favouritism. But to argue that the setting up of Nyaya Panchayats to try civil and criminal cases should be postponed because of that, would be a counsel of despair. Suitable solutions of problems will be found and things will resolve themselves as and when the recommendations are put into practice.

When Panchayat members are entrusted with the responsibility of trying civil and criminal cases, they will not fail to live up to the traditions of *Satya* and *Dharma,* inherited from their ancestors. The noble spirit of "Panch Parmeshwar", bequeathed to them from ancient times is sure to guide their path. There is no half-way house between trusting them and not trusting them.

My humble suggestion is, therefore, that the recommendations should be introduced early.

Devanhalli,
Mysore
30-9-1963

Yours etc.,
H. Huliyarappa,
Gram Sevak

WOMEN CAN DO IT

ONE OF THE main reasons for not entrusting to the womenfolk development work particularly in the field of agriculture is the fear, of course, wrongly entertained by many that this involves far too rough and strenuous a labour for them to perform. But this is a sheer myth, a figment of the sickly imagination of some menfolk. At least Uttar Pradesh has proved it at all levels—from the village up to the State. Uttar Pradesh, which is the largest State in India has had the credit of having the first woman as the Minister-in-charge of Community Development and Panchayati Raj, who has since become its Chief Minister.

Shrimati Shyam Raji Devi, the seventy-five year old Pradhan of a remote village of Uttar Pradesh has likewise proved her worth in furthering the development programme, particularly agricultural production which is regarded as primarily men's job.

VILLAGE TAKES TO WHEAT

Palia Tekdhar, a tiny village of 600 people in Nan Garh Development Block of Basti District of which the old lady is the Pradhan, has registered astounding progress in wheat production. Till two years ago, the village was entirely a rice-growing area. For centuries past, paddy alone was sown and it was unthinkable that wheat could ever be grown there. But as the message of the C.D. Programme reached this far-flung hamlet bordering Nepal, tucked up in the foot-hills of the Tarai, its age-old traditions began slowly to move away. In company with the rest of the countryside, there was an urge amongst the simple folk of this village to raise their standard of living by improving their methods of production. A large portion of the 365 acres of land under cultivation was put under wheat. In order to achieve maximum results, the dribbling technique of cultivation was adopted by every farmer. In spite of the fact that there is a woeful lack of irrigation facilities, well-irrigation being the only source, the crops showed a remarkable growth.

CHALLENGE TO MENFOLK

Udai Raj Pandey, one of the cultivators succeeded in producing as much as 45 maunds of wheat per acre. The village as a whole, topped the district in agricultural production. This remarkable spurt in wheat production had its impact on the surrounding villages, too. A healthy rivalry grew amongst the neighbouring villages to outdo the achievement of Palia Tekdhar advancing under the inspiring leadership of its lady Pradhan Smt. Shyam Raji Devi. In fact, it was a challenge to the menfolk who had so far monopolised the field of agricultural production. Shri Shobha Ram Shukla, a Pradhan of a nearby village Sikhat took up the matter in all seriousness and he organised his village so as to undertake all the improved farming practices in order to excel Shyamraji's village. This healthy spirit of competition fostered amongst several villages has been largely responsible for accelerating the agricultural production and putting the Block in the front-line of progressive areas after pulling it out of its traditional slough of backwardness.

ALL ROUND DEVELOPMENT

The venerable old lady, though much advanced in age, has been very active in campaigning for the adoption of all improved farming practices. Her keen enthusiasm has cast a spell on the extension staff as well who have spared no pains to make the village an ideal one.

It is not in the field of agriculture alone that the village has made remarkable progress. It has topped the district in other spheres too, like the construction of irrigation wells, regulators, culverts and brick-kilns. It has got a model drinking water well. The streets are neat and clean. The Harijans, too, lead a happy and prosperous life. Its service co-operative has been effectively helping the cultivators with loans and supplies of improved seeds and fertilisers.

The villagers today are rightly proud of their lady Pradhan who has become a symbol of wisdom, hard work and progress in the area. Even the die-hards amongst the menfolk of the village today admit that given the chance, the women can prove their equals on the field as well as at home.

An Experiment in Mid-day Meals

MISS HELEN MOOS

FOR SEVERAL years, the idea of introducing mid-day meals or supplementary feeding of school children had been uppermost in the minds of the educators of the Social Education Training Centre, Shri Mouni Vidyapeeth. It was in 1961 that some supplies of powdered milk were received from the CARE. Again in 1962 the first shipment of 200 bags of whole wheat flour was received from the Committee of Relief and Gift Supplies (C.O.R.A.G.S.) of the National Christian Council of India. Subsequently, within the following 4-5 weeks, stocks consisting of 185 bags of cornmeal and 385 cases of powdered skimmed milk were also received. It was through these generous gifts that the SEOTC made a beginning of the Mid-day Meals programme with the Primary School and Balwadi children.

ORGANISATION

A committee, consisting of the Asstt. Director, SEOTC, five staff members and myself was formed to plan and administer the programme. It was found advisable to select eight Primary Schools and Balwadis in the villages where we had Social Welfare Centres. Understandably, better control, management and supervision was possible there because of the presence of the working staff of the Gram Sevikas, Dais and Craft Teachers as well as the Supervisors of these Centres. In each village, an influential person was made responsible for implementing the scheme. A meeting was then held with the Block Development Officers, the school teachers and head-masters, Panchayat members and Welfare Centre staff members concerned. The entire plan was thoroughly discussed and proposals made for its implementation. Following this, some of the members of the committee visited each participating village and held an informative meeting with the village leaders, school teachers, Panchayat Committee members, the Welfare Centre Staff, B.D.O. and his staff.

It was interesting to observe how the village leaders discussed and evolved various plans for meeting concurrent expenses and distribution of the food. In a few instances, the immediate reaction to the details caused considerable concern, especially regarding the finances involved. Quite naturally, the first attack was upon the Panchayat for a grant-in-aid. When this was opposed due to lack of funds, heated discussions arose which eventually terminated in constructive proposals, revealing resourcefulness and community co-operation.

In two of the villages, the headmasters took upon themselves the total responsibility; whereas, in all the other selected villages, a small committee was formed to assist the responsible person with the arrangement and administration of the programme.

The general enthusiasm was high and the efforts put forth to solve the problems were born out of a real desire to improve the health of their children with the aid of this scheme.

SCHEME LAUNCHED

The responsible persons selected from the recipient villages came to the Centre with bullock carts or trucks, signed the necessary papers, supervised the loading and carting and received specific instructions regarding storage and preparation of the food. They not only followed the specific instructions for preparation and distribution but in some instances, used considerable initiative and imagination for more efficient implementation of the programme. They were required to meet expenses on the purchase of large cooking pots, pans and related equipment, fuel, cooking oil, spices and sugar. The services of a cook had also to be engaged. In some cases, the expenses were beyond the available financial resources of the Panchayat. But various people came forward to bear the expenditure. In one of the larger villages viz., Gargoti, a cloth merchant donated Rs. 51, a shopkeeper gave a brass bucket, and another tradesman donated Rs. 11 and

(*Continued on page* 12)

Story Of A Village
WHERE
WOMEN'S PROGRAMME IS ON THE MARCH

SUSHILA S. PANDIT

SINDHOLI is a tiny village consisting of 23 families only. Though it is situated only 5 miles away from the Block headquarters Khanapur in District Belgaum, it is to all intents and purposes, an interior village for one has to cross thick jungles before one reaches there. Kumari Baby Solapure Gram Sevika and Shri G. N. Kulkarni, the Gram Sevak must have traversed this path hundreds of times before the message of the C.D. Programme took roots in the village. Today, it is humming with all-round activities of the Women's Programme.

THE MAHILA MANDAL

The main reason why the Women's Programme has met with such outstanding success in this village is that it has a very active Mahila Mandal whose members work enthusiastically and devotedly. The Panchayat, too, does everything in its power to promote its activities. The Mandal has been entrusted with the responsibility of running a Balwadi which has 25 children on roll.

The Mahila Mandal has been allotted half an acre of land by the Panchayat for vegetable cultivation. The members of the Mandal have raised a variety of vegetables such as Cabbage,

The Gram Sevika (Right) *along with the potter in the rear. In front is the smokeless chulha.*

Knolkhol, Brinjals and a variety of greens. The seeds were supplied by the Taluka Development Board, Khanapur and the technical guidance was given by the Gram Sevika and the Extension Officer. These vegetables were consumed by the families of the members thus improving the nutritional value of their diet.

Useful demonstrations based on the needs of the members of the Mandal are planned and conducted in consultation with them. So far, demonstrations on white-washing, improved methods of cooking, scientific methods of preparing Farm Yard Manure, Baby bath etc., have been conducted. These demonstrations are followed up by the Gram Sevika who exhorts each family to adopt the improved practices. She is instrumental in persuading every family in the village to carry out white-washing in each house.

SMOKELESS CHULHAS

Again, as a result of her efforts, almost all the families have installed smokeless chulhas and they are all in actual use. The women have adopted this improvement because they are convinced about its utility. The size suits the needs of the families. The women would tell you that with the improved type of chulha there is no smoke, cooking is quicker and there is saving in fuel. To my querry as to how they came to the conclusion that there was saving in fuel, came the reply, "The fuel which was sufficient for six days only now lasts for eight days." What a simple calculation !

When once the realisation for the need of the smokeless chulha had dawned on the villagers, it was difficult for the Gram Sevika alone to cope with the evergrowing demand of constructing the chulha for each family. The Gram Sevika and the Gram Sevak had to approach Shri Narayan Kumbar, potter at the Block headquarters. He was shown the new design which suited the needs of the family.

The chulha constructed by him was tested and the Gram Sevika was convinced about its successful working. The potter was taken to Sindholi village and was introduced to the villagers. The paddy harvesting season was the proper time for introducing this home improvement. Some of the villagers were not in a position to pay in cash, but were willing to pay in kind *i.e.* paddy. Therefore, it was arranged that they should pay as much as they could in cash and the rest was to be paid in kind. In this way, all the families were enabled to get the smokeless chulhas in their houses.

PRODUCTION BOOSTED

It is generally believed that it is only on the men-folk that the burden of agricultural production rests. But this village has proved how a real boost can be given to agricultural production if the women-folk are also involved in the programme. If you happen to visit this village in the morning, you will see women carrying cowdung to the community pits. The Gramsevika has demonstrated the scientific way of preparing farm yard manure and this method has been adopted by every woman in the village. I was inquisitive to know how they distributed their share of the manure. I was informed that there was no difficulty as the manure was divided on the basis of the number of cattle that each family owned. Pots for urine conservation have been embedded in each cattle shed and are emptied in the pits thus turning 'wealth out of waste'. A large number of women have enlisted themselves as members of the village Co-operative Society which is proving very successful. All the families have adopted the improved methods of agriculture in all its aspects and as a result, this village has stood first in the Block.

The Mandal is at present conducting a Social Education class attended by 20 adult women regularly. In the beginning, it had to face an uphill task because only one woman would attend the class. But the Gramsevika and the Mukhyasevika did not lose heart. Through perseverance they succeeded in the end. When other women saw that the only woman attending the class could read and sign her name, others began to follow suit.

THE FUTURE

The Mahila Mandal is expanding its activities still further. A Co-operative Poultry Unit is being started with the financial and technical assistance of the Block. The villagers are already collecting material for the construction of the improved poultry pen. They will start a Tailoring class under village industry programme very soon.

This village has made progress largely as a result of the Women's Programme. The results would definitely be lasting. In this the Gram Sevika has played a memorable role. The village women love her so much that they want to provide her with a bicycle so that she may reach their village without spending her energy and time in walking.

In order to awaken the people it is the woman who has to be awakened. Once she is on the move, the village moves and the country moves and through woman, the children are brought into this picture and given the opportunities of healthier life and better training. Thus through the children of today we build the India of to-morrow.—Jawaharlal Nehru

THE FIVE VILLAGE SCHEME

TEJ NARAIN

As I LOOK back through the pages of my diary of the last year, the 'ghost' of the Five Village we were asked to adopt for purposes of making our training programme problem-oriented and more concrete, seems gradually to lose its earlier ugly and repulsive face and assumes a more lively and angelic appearance. The importance and usefulness of the scheme becomes clearer day by day and the sense of pessimism and frustration generated by it earlier is now replaced by a sense of confidence and faith in its soundness.

Having armed ourselves with the requisite knowledge about village Gaganpahad, situated close to our Training Centre at Rajendra Nagar (Andhra Pradesh) we,—the teachers and the trainees, all marched into the village, the objective being that of discussing the various activities, as visualised by us, with the people. We had the fond hope that the blue-print prepared by us would find a ready acceptance by the people. We were all the more encouraged to see a bunch of village people thronged at the new building of the Youth Club. This turned out to be a meeting of the Gram Panchayat. Very vehemently, there was exchange of arguments among the members of the Panchayat for some time, obviously, of social nature. The members seemed to be discharging the functions of Nyaya Panchayat. Most of those present were onlookers or persons interested in the decision.

ENCOUNTER WITH THE SARPANCH

Seeing a group of about ten of us, a hush went past the assembly and in a few moments it was all quiet. One of them advanced forward to know who we were and obviously he had a look questioning our propriety in entering the village. This person was clad in a *pyjama* and *Khadi Kurta*. He gave us a grim smile and reluctantly extended his hand for a shake. Now and then, he was looking back at his followers. All this carried some meaning. He was the leader of the village and obviously, the Sarpanch (Pradhan). His countenance was full of distrust and disgust and having expressed it to us, he was watching if his followers observed his behaviour in meeting the officers that we were. To greet him, I leapt forward and briefly mentioned the object of our visit. Quick came the retort, "So many people have been coming and going. They have been virtually pestering us, the village folk. What more do you have in store for us, Sirs ? Let us be free from further botheration". Even a broad smile by one and all from our group and more or less an entreating behaviour seemed to have had no effect on this man who obviously was obsessed with a defeatist's mentality.

SARPANCH TULSI RAM

Often he looked at his own dress and with the constant turning of his eyes towards a motorcycle, he convinced me to be the proud owner of the vehicle.

Leaving the 'head' to take care of us, the rest of the village folk vanished in no time.

For almost half an hour, we stood under the shade of the neem tree in front of the building, amused at the peculiarly retaliating treatment that we were being offered. Some 14 years back, I was holding the charge of the Revenue Sub-Division in which this village was located. This young man of 30 would then have been a mere boy. But he did seem to be familiar with my name. I tried to recollect my contacts in the village and one after another when I started mentioning persons that I had known in the village, there appeared a slight change in the facial expression of this youth. Often he looked at his own dress and with the constant turning of his eyes towards a motor-cycle, he convinced me to be the proud owner of the vehicle. In a sense, he was pointing out to his material well being. Having shown off this distinction of social and economic well-being, he started narrating his connections in the higher set up of administration and his intimate relations with political masters. All these had to be accepted by me with full faith that he would accept me and my team of workers. One of us suggestively sat on the bare floor of the verandah and the rest of us followed, keeping the Sarpanch busy in conversation. Virtually, he was persuaded to sit down and it gave us more time to make ourselves fully understood by him and also to enable him to expose his true self to us.

Having talked of personalities, he switched over to our proposed activity and came out with a blunt statement, "You people are in effect wasting your time and ours as well. We, in this village, are mostly labourers and if we can afford to sit with you to discuss matters, we have to sacrifice our one day's bread. So it is better that you forget us. We ourselves will try to improve our lot." Again, this shock had to be absorbed and one of the trainees from Maharashtra came out with the pleading that he and some of his State people wanted to know the village life in Andhra Pradesh and that this objective also prompted them to visit the village and meet its people. Even this did not seem to be a convincing reason to our friend, and hurriedly, he waved at us and whisked off on his B.S.A.

Disappointed, we sat under the verandah hoping to come across some more persons. None turned their face to us and after two hours, we all were back to our Training Centre. The staff met and discussed. Opinions were not wanting in the expression of attitudes of hate for the Sarpanch and for the removal of this village from our list. Despondence prevailed all round. Pressures of higher officers to adopt villages and undertake intensive development in order to make them "laboratories of practical work" seemed to be ideals unworkable. In another meeting of the staff members, we tried to analyse the behaviour of the Sarpanch and his totally repelling attitude. But we could not come to any conclusion.

HOMELY ATMOSPHERE

Having allowed one week to pass away, a staff member and I drove down to his residence in the late hours of night. It was past nine. When we entered the area, a battalion of stray dogs greeted us with howls. The man was working at the punctured tube of his proud possession. This time he was in an informal dress of a *banian* and *dhoti* tied upwards. He greeted us at the door. Our jeep driver took up the job that he was unsuccessfully attempting, and we began by asking his welfare and by explaining that our visit was just casual. In a purely homely atmosphere we sat on the floor of his house but he rushed inside the next room and brought a carpet for us. The house appeared to be recently constructed and we entered into topics pertaining to difficulties of construction etc. We had also known that he had interest in Poultry. This when discussed, he began lending his ears to us. By a process of informal and more personal talks we tried to convey our point to him that we did not want to visit his village in the capacity of hawkers or casual visitors. We could, to some extent, remove the notion from his mind that we regarded the village as a "Zoo" where we could "study the random behaviour" of the inhabitants, according to the Sarpanch. In the meantime, another friend of his came and interrupted our conversation. We thought he was distracted because something more important required his attention. We rose to go, but he beckoned us to the seat again and wanted to bring in tea. We did not refuse the offer and after spending almost 3 hours, we finally, bade him good-bye

(*Continued on page* 15)

Our Young Heroes of 1962

THE INDIAN Council for Child Welfare had instituted in 1957 the National Awards Scheme, under which awards are given every year to children for showing outstanding courage, honesty and selfless service. The object is to promote the spirit of service and an adventurous outlook in children by public recognition of their deeds.

Children up to the age of 16 from any part of the country irrespective of caste, creed or colour are eligible for this award. The ICCW invites names of deserving children by giving wide publicity through various channels and its own State branches. These cases are first screened at the State or Centrally administered Area level by the Sub-Committees specially constituted for the purpose. They are finally considered by a special committee at the headquarters. The names of children from villages are sent to the ICCW through local agencies, like Panchayat Samitis, District Collectors, Schools, etc. *It is worthy of mention that most of the children selected in 1962 for the Award come from the villages.*

Each year, the children are decorated with silver medals at a special function organised in their honour by the respective State Councils. As usual, in 1962 the function was held on the 14th November, 1962 which is the Children's Day and also coincides with the birthday of our beloved Prime Minister. A short account of the heroic deeds of service rendered by the nine children who were honoured last year is given below.

ICCW medal for courage and service awarded to children below 16 years.

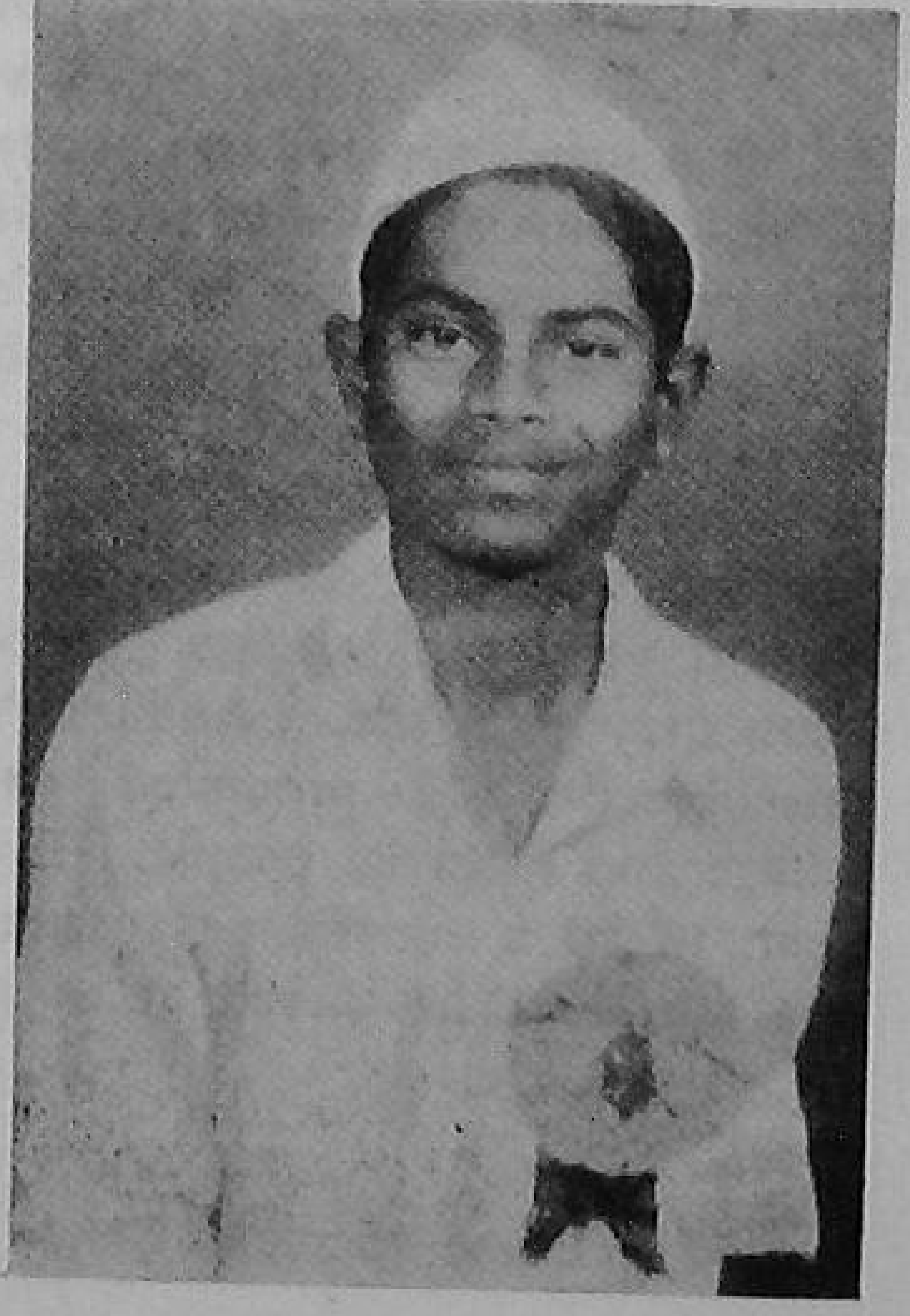
ATRAM JAIPATHI : This young lad of 13 years belongs to a village in Andhra Pradesh. He was grazing cattle when his friend Kumar Rao was suddenly attacked by a tiger. Seeing this, he immediately rushed to his rescue and raised an alarm. He kept the tiger engaged for sometime till hearing his shouts, the villagers arrived on the scene. The presence of mind and the courage shown by Atram saved the life of Rao.

DIGAMBAR VASUDEO NAMJOSHI : A young boy of fifteen, he hails from village Makhjan in District Ratnagiri of Maharashtra. Hearing the cries of a boy who had accidentally fallen into a river that passed by a hot-water fountain, he rushed to the bank and jumped into the river. Though the boy had been carried far by the swift currents of the river, he was able to bring him back safely to the bank.

RAM SINGH MAN SINGH : He hails from Kesarjawlga, a small village of District Osmanabad in Maharashtra. As soon as he saw a boy slip into a well, he jumped into it and saved the life of the boy.

DEVINDRA SINGH : A youngster of thirteen, he belongs to village Makadkheda of District West Nimar in Madhya Pradesh. He rescued a three year old child from being burnt. The child was sleeping alone in the house, his parents having gone to work in the fields. Near the child was a heap of cotton which accidentally caught fire. Devindra Singh who happened to pass by, noticed this and rushed to the house. He saved the child at great personal risk, having sustained some burns himself.

Udachappa Nagappa



UDACHAPPA NAGAPPA: He is fifteen years old and belongs to village Nagadi of Dharwar District in Mysore. Seeing a boy aged ten slip into a well, he immediately jumped into the well and brought out the boy alive. Later, he administered first-aid to him. On another occasion, with the help of his school mates, he extinguished a fire caught by a hay-stack. But for this timely action taken by him, half of the village would have been destroyed as the fire was spreading fast.

Elizabeth Philip

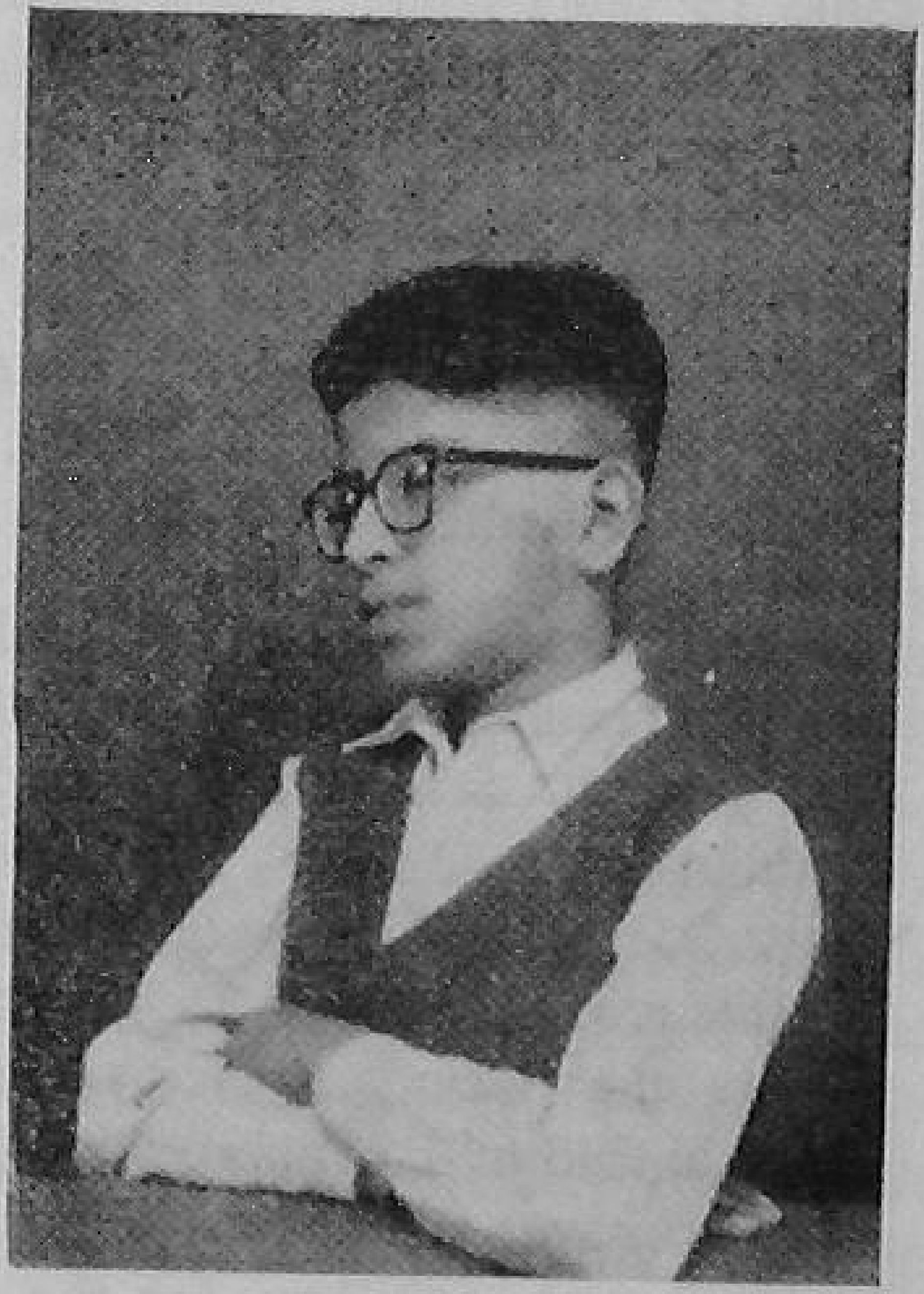
ELIZABETH PHILIP: A ten year old boy, while bathing in a flooded river, was carried away by its swift current. His mother jumped into the river in order to save him but she too, was swept away by the deep waters. Seeing this Elizabeth immediately leapt into the river and rescued both the mother and the son. Aged sixteen years only, she belongs to Mallappuchaseri, Aranmula, Kerala State.

SITESH DEB VERMA: Aged 14 years, he belongs to Krishnanagal, Tripura. A thatched roof of a house had caught fire. It was difficult to bring the fire under control since neither there was any water available nearby nor a ladder whereby one could climb the roof. But as soon as Sitesh saw this, he immediately climbed on the top with the help of a "Sim" creeper and began to extinguish the fire by throwing away the burning "Chan" grass on the ground with his bare hands and feet. Though he suffered some burns in his hands and legs during the operation yet he succeeded in putting out the fire which would have otherwise caused colossal damage to life and property.

Indira Panigrihi

INDIRA PANIGRIHI: Hailing from Cuttack, she is a small girl with a big heart. The swollen waters of the Mahanadi had carried away a 10 year old girl. Two women, one after another went to her rescue but they were also swept away. Who would dare now to save all the three ? Indira, without any hesitation plunged into the river and with utmost skill and courage saved the lives of all the three.

H. V. Krishnamurthy Ramaiya



H. V. KRISHNAMURTHY RAMAIYA: Hailing from Calcutta, the boy has contributed small amounts of money for various humanitarian purposes on more than one occasion. His interest in the field of education, recreation and social welfare has been highly appreciated by distinguished persons.

COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

A FLOURISHING SILK PRODUCING VILLAGE

SONAMUKHI, a small village of Bankura district in West Bengal produces quality silk of various types worth about one million rupees every year and earns for the country foreign exchange valued at about Rs. 2 lakhs. Inhabited by some 400 families, almost all of them weavers, Sonamukhi is famous for its choicest silk products like shirtings, suitings, coatings, blouse pieces and curtain materials besides sarees of pure silk.

The silk weavers of Sonamukhi faced a crisis some 15 years back. Short supply of raw materials and lack of capital and marketing facilities led a number of traditional weavers to take to other professions. But tables were turned in their favour when they organised themselves into a co-operative styled as the Sonamukhi Resham Silpa Samabay. To start with, it had only a handful of members.

Since then the Society has made good progress and at present it has as many as 130 members. Last year the Society made silk products valued at about Rs. 3,73,000. Marketing is no problem to the Society and its products have good demand in Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and Madras. At present the Society has two houses of its own. It has introduced a number of welfare measures for its weaver members. During the last year, it distributed medicines for the treatment of the weavers and their family members worth Rs. 2,000 and gave Rs. 10,893 as bonus. It has introduced Provident Fund Scheme and gives regular educational assistance to children of weavers.

V.V.F. ACTIVE IN NABADWIP BLOCK

VILLAGE VOLUNTEER Force Units in different parts of Nabadwip Block in West Bengal are contributing towards production and village development activities. The V.V.F. of Ganjadanga made a spectacular beginning by providing bamboo and other materials for constructing a cross-bundh at the junction of Bhagirathi and Gurguria canal. They also contributed partial voluntary labour in setting up the cross-bundh which saved Aus crop of about 1,000 acres of land.

At Majdie the local Village Volunteer Force members have repaired a kutcha road for better communication in the area. Some 200 Volunteers of Teerkhali have reconstructed half a mile long kutcha road and placed a pukka culvert connecting this road with the main thoroughfare. Villagers put in twenty cart loads of earth which were brought from distant places to improve the kutcha road which remained waterlogged for years.

VILLAGE ADOPTION SCHEME

A "VILLAGE Adoption Scheme" is being implemented in the areas covered by the "Package Programme" for intensive agricultural production in Burdwan district with effect from October 2.

Under this scheme every Government officer posted in the district has taken up at least one village for intensive work, the main emphasis being on agricultural development. To start with the programme covers four to five hundred villages so that in the course of next five years 2,000 villages will be covered.

FROM 3 HUTS TO 550 HOUSES

IN JUST eleven years, Govind Rao Pet, with barely three huts in 1952 has developed into a well-planned village of 550 houses with a population of 4,000 people. It has a Panchayat Board, a Middle school, a Community Radio set, a Radio Rural Forum, a Co-operative Society, a Youth Club and a Mahila Mandal. All these institutions are functioning well.

There is no house in the village without a kitchen garden. Improved variety of cocks and hens are being reared. Attempts are being made to raise fruit gardens. 80 per cent of their agriculture produce is being stored in the Warehouse at Warangal, and the village was adjudged the best at the district level, in storing the highest quantity of paddy in the warehouse.

In the field of education, too, it has made phenomenal progress. A single teacher school started in 1955, has developed into a middle school with 360 students of whom 47 per cent are girls. The people have constructed a school building worth Rs. 20,000 and are planning to

construct another building for a high school which may cost Rs. 40,000.

FIRST AID BOXES FOR PANCHAYATS

The Kuchaman Panchayat Samiti of Nagaur district in Rajasthan has provided First Aid Boxes to every Panchayat in the Samiti area. The Samiti has also donated a refrigerator to Kuchaman town Hospital for keeping medicines.

ECONOMY IMPROVES FASTER THAN POPULATION

Burhnamau village in the Barhpur Block of Fatehgarh district in Uttar Pradesh has demonstrated that the rapid growth of population can be outpaced by economic development. The population of the village has gone up by 30 per cent during the last decade whereas its per capita income has increased by 42 per cent, during the period. The population rose from 895 to 1,173 and the per capita income from Rs. 225 to Rs. 360. The culturable land during the period, however, remained static at 200 acres.

Intensive cultivation has been the key to this phenomenal achievement. The villagers by adopting improved farm practices such as use of fertilizers, green manures, improved seeds, improved implements, etc., are raising two, instead of one potato crop annually. Not an inch of culturable land is left unused or uncared for.

The economic progress has its root in psychological change which the people in the village have experienced under the inspiring leadership of their Pradhan, Sri Bhambhoo Saran Dixit, who came to the village 12 years back as a stranger and resolved to develop it. Accepting his leadership, the villagers have learnt the lessons of co-operation and self-help and have settled amicably among themselves several thorny, social and economic problems, outstanding among which is consolidation of holding and distribution of plots.

They have raised local resources and utilised State assistance for the construction of four tubewells with pucca channels and buildings for two primary schools, one junior high school, co-operative seed store and panchayatghar-*cum*-community recreation centre. Six furlongs of pucca 'shramdan' road, connecting the village with the national highway, underground drainage and neat village lanes covered with bricks confirm the belief about the growing urge of the people for improved living.

"AUTO-FLOW" IRRIGATION

"Auto-Flow", a source of small irrigation has been tried successfully for the benefit of cultivators of Taldanga—Simlapal-Garbetta zone in Bankura and Midnapur districts in West Bengal.

In the undulating land with alluvial soil of that area about 150 "Auto-Flows" have been supplying irrigation water round the clock. An "Auto-flow" supplies water even when the rivers are dry, each benefiting 30 acres of land throughout the year—30 bighas in winter, 20 bighas in summer and 40 bighas during the rainy season. The pipe for the "Auto-Flow" has to be sunk 160 feet deep. It supplies 1,200 gallons of water per hour. By making it deeper the capacity can be raised to 1,600 gallons.

The expenditure for sinking an "Auto-Flow" has been estimated at Rs. 1,500. From practical experience it has been seen that in one year a cultivator by the fullest utilisation of water can raise three crops from his land. It has been estimated that a cultivator owning 15 bighas of land can cover the expenditure for the sinking of an "Auto-Flow" from the first crop raised during the very first year.

The areas covered by "Auto-Flows" present a different look altogether. Even the high lands, which used to remain fallow, have been brought under cultivation.

A MODEL VILLAGE

Mudalgi, a village about 60 miles from Belgaum in Mysore State, is today one of the most progressive villages in India. It stood first in the State-level villages competition for 1961-62.

In the last 10 years, 6,000 people of Mudalgi, who know the way to progress and prosperity, have trebled their annual income. By fully utilising the irrigation facilities, the cultivators have transformed their village, situated in what was once known as a scarcity tract, into a village of smiling green fields and gardens.

The supply of waters of the river Ghataprabha to this village since August 1953, the increase in the number of irrigation wells and pump sets, widespread use of improved seeds, fertilisers, agricultural implements and adoption of new methods of cultivation, have modernised agriculture. Now, agricultural production in this village has gone up by 75 per cent. Fruits grown here are not only exported to neighbouring towns, but also to distant places in both Karnatak and Maharashtra.

A few years ago, the villagers had to go three to four miles, especially in summer, to fetch a pot of drinking water. But today, with the increase in the number of drinking water wells in the village, this problem has been completely solved. People here are fully aware of the importance of education. There are already three Kannada Primary Schools and a High School. The number of students seeking admission to these schools is on the increase. There are two Literary Centres, one Youth Club, two Bhajan Mandals, one Balwadi, three Radio Listening Centres in Mudalgi and Gurlapur. Groups and group rivalries are unknown to Mudalgi. People here contest the elections to the Panchayat Committee. But once the elections are over, they forget the feelings of success and defeat and work unitedly for the all round development and progress of their village. The desire to progress is so intense here that the people never wait for others to help them. "Self help" is their slogan. Through Shramdan, they have constructed roads and built school buildings.

A SUCCESSFUL JOINT FARMING SOCIETY

The tiny villages of Kamapur and Nonekhedi in Sachi Development Block in Madhya Pradesh have set an inspiring example of self-help and willing co-operation by organising a Joint Farming Society. The Society is functioning for the last two years and has successfully brought out a remarkable change in the socio-economic status of its members.

The society has 27 members with a pooled area of 179.36 acres and Rs. 2,055 as their share capital contribution.

Financial assistance by Government and bank in the form of loans and subsidies amounting to Rs. 23,330 has also been given to the Society for construction of godown, purchase of bullocks and buffaloes, payment of salary to the staff etc.

In addition, the State Government have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 25,000 under the lift irrigation scheme, while the co-operative bank has advanced Rs. 20,000 for the purchase of a tractor. The entire land of the society has been covered under contour-bunding.

During the current year, the produce yielded a net saving of Rs. 10,456. The total income from cultivation and tractor operations amounted to Rs. 19,800 while the expenditure on various agricultural operations was Rs. 9,343. The average yield per acre is 7½ mds. while prior to the formation of the society it was only 4 to 5 mds. per acre.

Apart from agriculture, other measures are also being adopted to improve the economic condition of the members of the society. The society obtained a loan of Rs. 3,000 from Central Co-operative Bank, Bhopal and advanced Rs. 2,925 to six members for purchasing the buffaloes. The average income per member is Re. 1 per day which will be doubled after the repayment of the loan.

AN EXPERIMENT IN MID-DAY MEALS

(*Continued from page 3*)

so on. A truckman of one of the villages offered free services of his truck for transport of supplies. Bullock carts, owned by some villagers, were also pledged for free service transport. The people have thus come forward in large numbers to shoulder the scheme. The Panchayat members of two villages have stated that they have now learned so much about this type of programme that if and when the outside help ceases, they will arrange to continue it with the aid of popular contribution of grains, gur etc., from the village community.

The many school teachers involved in the programme are deeply interested in the results to be obtained by this supplementary feeding programme and are carefully keeping height and growth registers as well as attendance register. An interesting development arising out of this is that non-school-going children are now attempting to attend the schools fairly regularly.

FROM THE CENTRE

APPRAISAL OF FIVE VILLAGE SCHEME

A SYNDICATE of the National Institute of Community development, in review of the Five Village Scheme has pointed out that by and large the programme has been a useful one. The programme sponsored by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation was initiated a year back, and the experience gained so far promises hopes for future.

The five village development scheme was introduced in the Orientation and Study Training Centres by the Ministry with a view to making the training programme more realistic. The object of the scheme is to provide facility for practical training and to give a first-hand knowledge of agricultural problems to the trainees.

Under the scheme, each Orientation and Study Centre is to choose five villages to conduct field work. The villages so chosen are expected to serve as models illustrative of the results that could be achieved through efficient training. In fact, the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation prescribed that the success or otherwise of a Training Centre is to be assessed from the actual work done in the selected villages. Emphasis was placed on marshalling local resources by the training centres for executing development projects in the selected villages.

The review of the scheme by the Syndicate indicates that the programme of five village scheme has enabled the trainees to have a better understanding of the village life. It has also provided an opportunity for the trainees to have an insight into the problems of the rural people.

The trainees were also able to secure practical training in the preparation of production plans, organisation of Youth Clubs and Mahila Mandals and co-ordination of various factors that could help an integrated approach to rural problems.

The work of the trainees and the instructors provided benefits for the villagers too. Amenities like consumer stores, mid-day meals for school-going children, a maternity and child welfare centre and increased agricultural production are some of the benefits that accrued to the villages through the efforts of the trainees and instructors.

Village institutions like panchayats and co-operatives grew in dimensions and the Village Volunteer Force and the Defence Labour Banks were started in all the villages under the guidance of the instructors.

The Syndicate has recommended the drawing up of a minimum programme for the selected villages, with emphasis on building up village institutions rather than on achieving targets. Special attention is to be given to the Village Volunteer Force programme. It has also been suggested that all the Community Development and Panchayat Training Centres should take up the Five Village Scheme without exception.

ROUTING TACCAVI THROUGH CO-OPERATIVES

THE GOVERNMENT of India have decided to route taccavi loans through the co-operatives according to a phased programme.

It is expected that within a period of three to five years, handling of taccavi loans will be taken over by the co-operatives in all the States. Co-operatives should be accepted as the normal agency to provide credit to agriculturists for production and land improvement purposes. However, in cases where, because of financial risks involved or otherwise, it will not be possible for co-operatives to provide finances, Government will continue advancing taccavi loans directly.

In certain States like Maharashtra and Gujarat, where the co-operative structure is strong, it may be possible to implement the policy immediately. But in States like Assam and Bihar, where the co-operative movement is weak, it will take a much longer time to make co-operatives throughout the State to take to the distribution of taccavi loans.

While transferring taccavi loans to co-operatives, the State Governments have been requested by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation to see that the total funds

available for agricultural development are not in any way reduced. In this connection, the necessity to continue the provision for taccavi loans in the State budgets has been pointed out by the Ministry. The funds provided for in the State budgets for taccavi loans are to be made available to the co-operatives. Further, the loan funds in the schematic budget of Community Development Blocks for agricultural development may also be routed through co-operatives.

The Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation has expressed the view that wherever land mortgage banks are strong, long-term taccavi loans should be routed through them. For example, in Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Maharashtra and Gujarat, long-term taccavi loans are to be distributed through the land mortgage banks.

Co-operatives, however, are not to be entrusted with the distribution of taccavi loans for distress. This will continue to be the responsibility of the Government.

The Centre has suggested that a pooled rate of interest should be charged in respect of all loans given by the co-operatives and such a rate should not be unduly high and should generally be below 8 per cent. For this purpose, a periodical review of the rates of interest has been suggested. Government hopes that these measures will go a long way in providing a unified agency of credit for agricultural production.

REORGANISATION OF V.V.F.

THE COMMITTEE set up by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation to report on the co-ordination of the village Volunteer Force and Defence Labour Bank programmes, has recommended financial assistance by a matching grant from the Government to Panchayats in which at least 25 per cent of the able-bodied adults have become members of the V.V.F.

The Committee has endorsed the decision of the Ministry that only those who undertake to give a minimum of twelve days' free labour per annum for the programmes of the V.V.F. should be enrolled as its members.

Another recommendation of the Committee emphasises that Panchayats should pay particular attention to works programmes based on voluntary contribution of full or part labour, supplemented by assistance from Government towards the cost of skilled labour, materials, etc. The role of the V.V.F. in this scheme of things, should be as the instrument of the Panchayats to execute programmes based on voluntary labour.

The Committee has emphasised that the Panchayats should utilise the entire manpower available in the villages in the implementation of rural works programmes and has suggested necessary amending legislation by the States for this purpose.

The Committee has pointed out that agricultural production programmes, such as desilting and construction of minor irrigation and drainage works, soil conservation, tree planting, green manuring, compost-making etc. should be given priority, though other programmes relating to local development works and provision of amenities are not to be ruled out.

The Committee has expressed the view that development programmes falling within the jurisdiction of Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads, and involving the use of voluntary labour, including programmes sponsored by voluntary and associate organisations should be co-ordinated by the Panchayati Raj bodies concerned.

ALL INDIA MILK COMPETITION

UNDER THE All-India Milk Yield Competitions for 1962-63 organised by the Central Council of Gosamvardhana the first prize of Rs. 2,000 in the Hariana breed has been awarded to Shri Satguru Hari Singh, proprietor of Breeding and Agricultural Farm, Jeewannagar, Hissar, whose cow has given a record yield of 58.86 lbs. in a day. The first prize of Rs. 2,000 in the Sahiwal breed has also been awarded to Shri Satguru Hari Singh whose cow yields 68.6 lbs. in a day.

The Committee has also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 12,750 to be given away as cash prize to the owners of animals whose yields have recorded highest in Hariana, Sahiwal, Ongole, Kankrej and Murrah breeds.

The 'Gopal Ratna' medal for outstanding work in cattle development has been awarded to Ashram Gaushala Urlikanchan, Poona for outstanding work in cattle development.

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THE FIVE VILLAGE SCHEME

(*Continued from page 7*)

keeping the door open for our future meetings. A ray of hope dawned on us and on our way back we planned further steps to win over this man in particular. He seemed to have reposed some confidence in us by saying how he had acquired the status both in the village and outside, how he had been struggling with the Block authorities to capture some of the benefits for his panchayat and how he had to align with certain people in order to get certain amenities. "If I don't do this, Sir, do you think, I can be President of this Panchayat for one day?" he asked. Our appreciation of his efforts had definitely worked a good deal. With that feeling of satisfaction we started projecting our thoughts to the future which had for some time looked dismal but was now showing some signs of glow.

POULTRY—THE FIRST PROJECT

With this uncertainty hanging on our mind, we planned to meet him again to know as to how best we could function as "catalysts". The first project that struck our mind was to encourage good breed of Poultry, if not the entire stock, at least that of Cocks was to be replaced. In the village, this found acceptance and we were successful in removing all the 20 country Cocks and in replacing them with white-leghorns which were supplied by us at a nominal cost of Rs. 3 each.

ANOTHER POINT SCORED

On the agriculture side, interest was shown by us in their crops, by frequent visits to their fields and helping them in the operations which they carried on in their traditional manner. The use of Push-hoes for interculture was exhibited and two farmers practised it. They found the method useful. Talking to them straight on the chemical fertilizers was to invite trouble. One farmer came forward to get convinced of an advantageous crop and wanted us to show the difference in the yield. He offered his plot of land. We carried out an actual demonstration on three plots,—one with the compost, second with green manure and ammonium sulphate and the third with urea, superphosphate, compost and leafy manure. Finally, the last experiment proved to be of the greatest advantage. The operations for a period of over 3 months were observed not only by the owner of the land but by some others too. We won over the villagers' conviction in this regard too. At the end of the year, 70% of the area was found to be covered with the Japanese Method of Cultivation. Our Instructor in Agriculture wanted to introduce the raised seed bed practice. But none would accept it. After some time a real rustic but an enterprizing fellow threw a challenge, offering his land. The experiment was laid, with hardly onethird of the seed that the farmers used for their holdings. When the beds gave thicker leaf seedlings with promises of a larger number of tillers, another point was scored by us. Two more farmers took over to this.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In the same village, Mahilas were members of a Sewing Class. The Block authorities had ordered its shifting because the two years' period was over. The problem was of displacement of the talented section of the village Society. Authorities on Co-operation said that a tailoring Co-operative could not be sanctioned. Contacts with the trained ladies showed that at least two of them were very keen in taking up to this profession at home. The Samithi sanctioned them two machines on loan basis. Subsequently, when interviewed, they said that they were able to earn about a rupee per day during their free hours. The Mahila Mandal has kept these machines with them and the members are allowed to use them free of charge. Youth in this village, appeared to have a good potential. There were 30 strong who constructed their Club building, brick-by-brick. The Rotary Club gave them the material and now a small but neat building has become the place for meeting of all the village folk. Movies on subjects of their choice are projected by us and thus the educational programme is on the move.

This village has about 30% population whose mainstay is other than agriculture. Some enterprising young men have taken employment in the nearby urban areas. When we discussed this problem with the 'elders' of the village and the Sarpanch they were found to be agreeable to undertake any work to earn a living. A

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FROM THE CENTRE

(*Continued from page* 14)

TRAINING FOR VILLAGE LEADERSHIP

About 1,28,000 training camps for village leaders were organised by the Union Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation up to March, 1963. Uttar Pradesh has organised the largest number of camps, *i.e.*, 45,292.

The Programme Evaluation organisation in its report on the Gram Sahayaks training programme for 1960-61 has observed that a large measure of success has attended the efforts to enable the adoption of improved agricultural practices not only by those who had been trained in camps but also by groups of other villagers who were later contacted by them.

In the light of experience gained, it is now proposed to have an integrated training programme for Gram Sahayaks, youth workers, and women workers at the village, block and district levels.

The Union Ministry has also taken steps to inculcate a spirit of leadership among the youth in rural areas. In this connection, a programme for the training of 20,000 youth workers, both boys and girls, in the country has been undertaken. The training is to be given at Gram Sevaks' and Gram Sevikas' Training Centres. It will provide the trainees theoretical background and practical opportunity to develop leadership qualities through group activities. Reports received from the State Governments and Union Territories indicate that 224 camps have so far been held and about 6,000 youth workers trained.

THE FIVE VILLAGE SCHEME

(*Continued from page* 15)

Co-operative enterprize seemed to be the ideal solution. The City, about 6 miles from the village was continually expanding and construction activity was going ahead. So we proposed that a Brick Manufacturing Society might be started. It was formed with a membership of thirty. The Khadi and Village Board, when approached by us sanctioned a grant of Rs. 300. The work is to start soon. Yet another twenty persons were not inclined to join this Society. The Block came in ready to help absorb them into another small industry. A Book Binding Training-*cum*-Production Centre has been established for them where they will be able to earn at least a rupee a day.

THE FUTURE

The villagers are anxious to start a Community Poultry Unit, but when they recollect the experience of the past, they shudder even to think of it. Years back, a Co-operative Poultry Society had come into existence. The mismanagement had resulted in its total extinction. Even the share capital was a loss. We have not yet been able to find a way out.

Fish rearing is acceptable to all those who are having wells (twelve) in number. But they don't want to remove the 'Marak' and the replacement of this variety by 'Katla' or 'Common Corps' is being resented. Yet one farmer has agreed to the proposal and it is likely that the experiment in his well will catch the imagination of others.

Many more activities can be introduced but it is a question of time and acceptance. The attempts so far made have convinced us that the adoption of the villages was certainly a step in the right direction.

All was not well with our progress in the beginning, but perseverance, patience, diligence and careful analysis of the situations have now convinced us that no matter we failed in certain attempts, there will be an effective impact in some other fields. Slowly, the Orientation and Study Centre is getting nearer to the people and finding a place in their estimation

Thanks to the Sarpanch, who with his first gesture of distrust, created in us the qualities that are essentially required for a worker. Now he is changed. He meets us to talk to us about problems of his village. We are no more "unwanted intruders" in the village and no more "aliens". He believes that we are co-sharers of the responsibilities that he was shouldering singly so far.

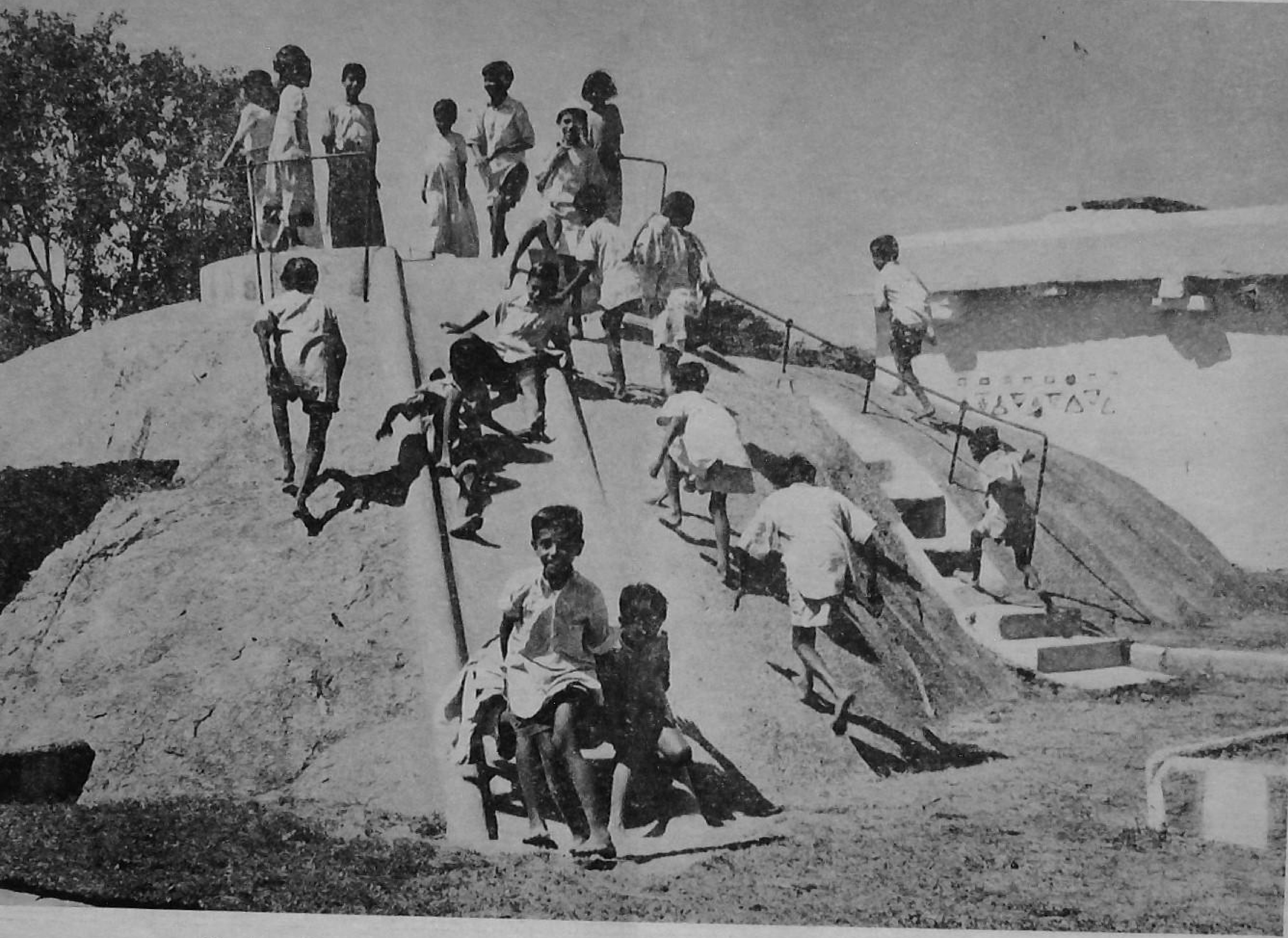
The Children washing their hands before the Mid-day meals are to be served in a school

Taking the meals

ORISSA'S EXPANDED NUTRITION PROGRAMME

Children Working in a newly planted school orchard

Mahila Samiti members getting fish for preparing the balanced diet



The dome-like construction provides an excellent opportunity for sliding down to the children in one of the villages in Mysore State.

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